



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAR 20 2015

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Panagioti Tsolkas
Special Projects Coordinator
Human Rights Defense Center
Prison Legal News
P.O. Box 1151
Lake Worth, Florida 33460

Re: Freedom of Information Act request EPA-R5-2015-004450

Dear Mr. Tsolkas:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act request, submitted electronically on March 2, 2015. In that request, you asked for any information and documents that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may have regarding USEPA review of an environmental impact statement (EIS), environmental assessment (EA), or categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Thomson Correctional Center in Thomson, Illinois.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) prepared and issued an EA for public comment in August 2010 for acquisition and activation of the Thomson Correctional Center as Administrative United States Penitentiary Thomson. You indicated that you had searched for NEPA documentation on this facility on the USEPA website <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>. That site contains Federal agencies' EISs, as well as USEPA's own NEPA compliance documents. That site does not, however, contain EAs prepared by other Federal agencies, such as BOP. In researching a response to your request, we conducted an on-line search and found a pdf of BOP's Thomson EA, which we are providing with this reply.

Page 6.1 of the EA lists the agencies and persons consulted by BOP and its consultant, Tetra Tech, Inc., in the preparation of the EA. Appendix B contains agency coordination letters from Tetra Tech and responses from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. USEPA neither received nor reviewed this EA at the time of the public comment period. Therefore, USEPA has no information or documents responsive to your request.

You may appeal this response to:

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, FOIA and Privacy Branch
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460 (U.S. Postal Service Only)
E-mail: hq.foia@epa.gov.

Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you are submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20001. Your appeal must be made in writing, and it must be submitted no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 30-calendar-day limit. The appeal letter should include the FOIA number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

There are no billable costs associated with preparing this FOIA response, as EPA incurred less than 2 hours of search time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 312-886-2910 or westlake.kenneth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Enclosure Bureau of Prison EA for Thomson Correctional Center August 2010